

Ontario

CA2 ON  
NR  
-Z123

14 Ojibwa Family  
15 Copper Artifacts  
16 Indiana Hunting

17 Running Tanner's Rig  
18 Coming to the Rendezvous  
19 Simon Dawson, 1879  
20 Difficulties of a Military  
21 Decayed Log Chute

22 Pictographs, Quetico  
Lake  
23 Heartless Moose Pictograph,  
Duffy Lake  
24 Pictographs, Duffy Lake

8 Trailin' Arbutus  
9 Green Flagbush  
10 Autumn  
11 Red Fox  
12 Moose Swimming  
13 Bald Eagle



# Plants

Quetico's wilderness supports a great variety of plant life. On the exposed bedrock extensive lichen communities grow; to many visitors the variety of form and colour in these primitive plants is one of the most striking features of the park. Just as characteristic of Quetico are stands of jack-pine struggling for a foothold on exposed bedrock ridges and wellands of black spruce with thick, soft carpets of moss on the forest floor.

Quetico is dotted with innumerable bogs, whose characteristic shrubs are leather-leaf, Labrador tea, and sweet gale. Bogs richer in nutrients support the insectivorous sundew and pitcher plant, and in some cases, orchids as well. The northern forest is composed mainly of black spruce, jack pine, trembling aspen and white birch, but the vegetation of Quetico is not purely northern. There are sheltered pockets of more southerly trees such as oak, elm, silver maple, yellow birch, and even basswood. It also has some magnificent stands of large red and white pine.



11 Red Fox  
12 Moose Swimming  
13 Bald Eagle



loons and barred owls are often heard calling at night. Because summers are short and winters severe, there are few reptiles and amphibians. The only snakes found in Quetico are the harmless garter snake and red-bellied snake. Black flies and mosquitoes are abundant in June and July, so take insect repellent along.

25 Interior Canoe Trip  
26 Preparing for a Canoe Trip  
27 Paddling in the Interior  
28 Canoe Tripper's Campsite

29 Fishing from a Canoe  
30 Fishing for Northern Pike  
31 Naturalists on Saginagons



**Enjoying the Park.** Canoeing. Quetico is a primitive place. With the exception of the Dawson Trail Campgrounds, the park is roadless. Instead of roads, however, there are hundreds of kilometres of interconnected waterways and traveling them by canoe is the best way to experience the spirit of Quetico.

There are over 1 500 kilometres of canoe routes in Quetico's 4 662 square kilometre expanse. Large lakes, rapids, quiet rivers and waterfalls can all be found in Quetico's rolling terrain. Portages tend to be of medium length and of moderate difficulty. The few that are taxing, such as the Trouser-Cache Lake portage (3.4 kilometres) offer the rewards of peace, solitude and achievement to the canoeist daring enough to try them. A waterproof map (\$2.00) of Quetico is available at all park Ranger Stations. Copies can also be obtained by writing the District Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources, Aitkhan, Ontario, P0T 1C0.

**Permits.** Anyone intending to camp overnight in Quetico's wilderness must purchase a Wilderness Camping Permit available at all Ranger Stations. At Dawson Trail camping is permitted only at designated campsites.

**Visitor Distribution Programme.** (Quota System) This programme limits the number of wilderness camping parties entering Quetico daily and limits the number of people in each party to a maximum of 9 at any time. A separate permit is required for each party. Party leaders must be designated for each permit applied for. Prepare to camp only 9 to a site.

Wilderness camping permits may be reserved, beginning March 1, by writing: **Reservations,** Quetico Park, Ministry of Natural Resources, Aitkhan, Ontario P0T 1C0.

**Cans and Bottles.** Cans and bottles for food and beverages are not permitted in the interior of Quetico. To help maintain the quality of Quetico's wilderness, all interior visitors are provided with plastic litter bags. Please take all your garbage out with you.



**Fishing.** The lakes of Quetico provide good opportunities to catch fish. The most common varieties in Quetico are yellow pickerel (walleye), northern pike, bass, and lake trout. Lake sturgeon, which was regarded by the Indians as a staple, is still found in the Maligne River and in Sturgeon, Russell, and Wolseley Lakes. **Note:** Use of live bait-fish is prohibited in Quetico Park.

**Boating.** In order to maintain the wilderness qualities of the park the use of motor-powered watercraft is not permitted. **Note:** Treaty Indians of the Lac la Croix Guides Association are permitted to use motors to a total of 10hp or less on the following waterways: Quetico Lake, Beaverhouse Lake, Minn Lake, Wolseley Lake, McCreary Lake, The Maligne River from Lac la Croix to Tanner Lake.

**Hunting.** Hunting is not permitted in Quetico Park and it is an offence to carry fire-arms in the park.

Quetico is a wilderness park which preserves an area of great natural value and historical significance. Its vast network of interconnected waterways, covering more than 4,662 square kilometres, makes Quetico one of the finest canoeing areas on the entire North American continent. The land was originally set aside in 1909 as a Forest Reserve following the establishment of the Superior National Forest across the border in Minnesota; subsequently in 1913, it was designated a provincial park.

The rugged landscape of Quetico with its majestic cliffs, spectacular waterfalls and myriad lakes and rivers has made the park famous for its natural beauty. A soaring eagle, the haunting cry of a loon, or the eerie howl of a wolf can give you a feeling of solitude and remind you of the wilderness past. Here the Ojibwa once hunted and trapped, the voyageur paddled his fur-laden canoe and settlers struggled over the Dawson Trail towards Canada's west.

Different cultures have come and gone, but Quetico has remained unchanged. Today's visitor can still travel its water routes by canoe and experience something of North America as it was before the advent of modern civilization.

Quetico's recreational potential can be enjoyed in many ways. Canoeing, camping, fishing, snowshoeing, backpacking, swimming, and nature photography attract many visitors to Quetico's campsites, waterways, and portages.

Some physical exertion is required to see the park's vast interior as roads are non-existent and motorized travel is permitted on very few lakes. The rewards to be gained from such a trip are many.

In addition to the wilderness interior, Quetico offers car camping and day use areas at the Dawson Trail Campgrounds on French Lake. Open lawns for picnics, and excellent swimming beaches make this a popular vacation spot in the summer months.

**The Effects of the Ice Age**  
The rocks of Quetico are part of the ancient Canadian Shield, one of the few surviving

segments of the earth's original crust. These Precambrian rocks are over three billion years old. Since the formation of the original rock, continuous cycles of deposition, erosion, volcanic and earthquake activity have kept the landscape in a constantly changing state. Ancient seas have covered the park. Mountains have formed and been eroded away. Rock has been thrust up from beneath the surface. The most recent and visible changes in the landscape occurred when glaciers, thousands of metres thick, flowed over most of Canada.



The last of these receded from Quetico only about twelve thousand years ago, leaving the land scarred with abundant evidence of its force. Most of the soil and much underlying rock was pushed far to the south. Much of the park is exposed bedrock - rounded, smoothed or scratched, crushed into boulders or shattered to form imposing cliffs.

The rocks of Quetico have actually seen three quarters of the Earth's four and a half billion-year history.

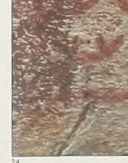
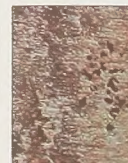
Manitoba, aided settlers moving west. This route was initially surveyed in 1857 by Simon Dawson and followed the fur trade route passing through the centre of the park. Visitors can still hike or canoe along part of it today.

With the coming of the railway in the early 1900's the area became easily accessible and by 1918 lumbermen had arrived in search of red and white pine.



Logging continued in Quetico until 1971. Then, in response to public concern over the effects of logging on the park's wilderness qualities, public hearings were held. As a result logging was stopped, and in 1973 Quetico was classified as a Wilderness Park. The government thus resolved to preserve Quetico - "in perpetuity for the people of Ontario as an area of wilderness containing a natural environment of recreational and historical significance not adversely affected by human activities".

22 Pictographs, Quetico  
Lake  
23 Heartless Moose Pictograph,  
Duffy Lake  
24 Pictographs, Duffy Lake



**Pictographs.** The greatest concentration of Indian rock paintings in eastern North America occurs between Lake Superior and the Manitoba border, in and around Quetico Park. Scattered throughout the park are thirty sites, often on impressive cliff faces. The mysterious pictographs, usually less than thirty centimetres in size, are mostly reddish-brown in colour.

The origin of the paintings is shrouded in mystery. It is uncertain exactly how old they are or who created them. Their subject matter spans a broad range from representations of men, moose, caribou, bears, and turtles to completely abstract forms. The sites of the pictographs may have been chosen because they were associated with certain spirits but unfortunately, very little is known of local mythology. Nevertheless, the rock paintings stand today as intriguing remnants of a earlier culture.

Look at the paintings but don't touch! They are too sensitive to survive for very long if frequently touched.



**Indians, Fur Traders, and Lumbermen.** Man first arrived in Quetico about 9,000 years ago, but little is known of these first occupants. The interconnected lakes and sheltering forests were able to support the nomadic way of life of the Indians, even if the long winters taxed their resourcefulness to the limit. When French fur traders began coming to Quetico in the late 17th century, they adopted Indian ways, using canoes in summer and snowshoes and toboggans in winter. Quetico's water routes determined their life style as inevitably as they had the Indians.

Between 1731 and 1750, the French explorer LaVerendrye established trading posts on Sagana and Basswood Lakes. His fur route ultimately developed into a vital transportation artery which, each year, supplied tons of pelts to the fur-hungry markets of Montreal and Europe.

After the British defeated the French in 1759, independent traders for a time assumed control of the fur routes to the West but competition from the Hudson's Bay Company



eventually forced them to join together to form the North West Company. First from Grand Portage and later from Fort William, the canoe brigades of the "Nor'Westers", led by such adventurers as Simon Fraser and Alexander MacKenzie passed through Quetico enroute to the Pacific Ocean. Later the North West Company was absorbed by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Between 1871 and 1880, the Dawson Route, a road and waterway between Prince Arthur's Landing, Ontario and Fort Garry





32 Cross-country Skiers  
33 Interpretation in the  
Campground  
34 Quetico Visitor Centre  
35 Conducted Hike



**Winter Use**  
Quetico is being used more and more during the winter for such activities as winter camping, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing. Please keep in mind that our winters are cold and that it is the visitor's responsibility to know how to cope with hazardous winter weather and ice conditions. There are no groomed trails and snowmobiles are prohibited.

**Visitor Services**  
The Quetico Interpretive Programme provides personal contact with experienced staff who can assist you to rely on your own resources and abilities while travelling Quetico's lakes and portages. Understanding some of the factors which have shaped and continue to shape Quetico can enrich your appreciation and enjoyment of the park.

Staff at each ranger station and interior rangers on patrol provide information to park visitors. At the Dawson Trail Campgrounds, the staff also conduct a detailed interpretive programme during the summer.

**Visitor Centre:** From the Visitor Centre at French Lake, a canoeist can obtain information about his route and examine large scale maps of the park showing points of interest (e.g. the pictographs).

Several displays direct the visitor's attention to important aspects of park history and there are also exhibits of local insects, mammals, trees, mosses and lichens.

**Interpretive Trails:** Three labelled interpretive trails, each about two and a half kilometres long, are located near the main campground road. There are two shorter trails near the French River and the Upper Pickering River. Conducted hikes may be arranged upon request.

**Evening Programmes:** Evening Programmes begin at dusk in an outdoor amphitheatre every Tuesday and Saturday from late June to Labour Day. Usually the programme consists of a film and a slide talk, but sometimes there are special events, including star walks.

45 Evening Reflections,  
Wapitee Lake  
46 Quetico 16 Ranger Sta-  
tion  
47 Interior Campsite



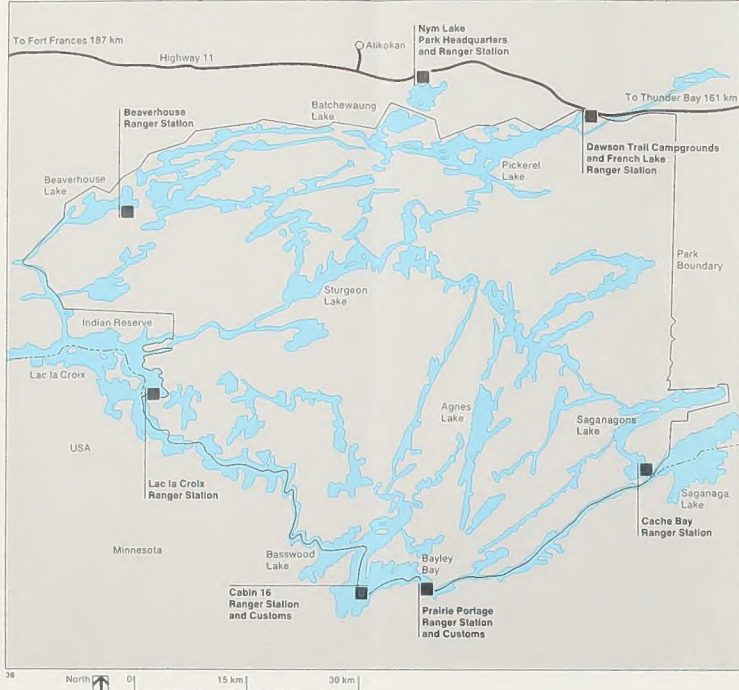
**Helpful Tips for Wilderness Users of Quetico**  
As the stresses of urban life increase, more and more people each year are fleeing the cities to seek temporary relief in the forests and lakes to the north. Unfortunately the growing number of Quetico visitors constitutes a potential threat to the survival of the park's most attractive features. You can do your part to preserve Quetico's irreplaceable natural values by conscientiously obeying the following suggestions.

Upon landing at a campsite search the nearby woods for a horizontal pole privy or a primitive box-type toilet. If there is none, dig a pit in a flat place where the soil is sufficiently deep. (Do not disturb the soil on steep slopes as this will promote ugly erosion.) Insist that all members of your party use this toilet facility. There is nothing more repulsive than a woodland strewn with toilet paper and human waste.

In this rugged rocky land, areas suitable for campsites are scarce. Be kind to the precious few that do exist. Multitailed trees spoil a wilderness setting. Step lightly on fragile



36 Park Boundary



48 Quiet Interior Lake  
49 Burnt Over Area  
50 Campfire  
51 Fireplace Among the  
Rocks



moss and lichen communities which form an attractive blanket over otherwise barren bedrock. Limit the size of your group to a maximum of nine people at any time. Large numbers put excessive stress on the campsite area.

Individuals in a large group also see and hear less on account of the increased noise and other distractions caused by sheer numbers.

Due to the scarcity of campsites and the ever-increasing use of those that are present, dry wood will often be in short supply in the immediate vicinity of your fireplace. Instead of thoughtlessly cutting down live trees in the vain hope that somehow they may burn, begin looking for dead wood back from the shoreline before you make camp.

For tinder use dry grass, pine needles or loose, hanging birch bark. Removal of light, living bark causes unsightly scarring and cracking of the trees and introduces rot which eventually kills them.

To prevent wildfire and the destruction fire often leaves in its wake, carefully choose the location of your campfire. Stone fireplaces erected by previous campers are usually the safest spots. If none is present, build your fire on mineral soil (sand, clay, etc.) as close as possible to the water's edge. Here water is readily available for dousing the flames.

Building a fire on organic soil containing needles, rotting leaves, twigs, peat, etc. invites disaster as the flames can creep underground, later springing to the surface fifty feet or more from the fireplace.

If you find gathering wood, building a fire and dousing it too much of a chore, take along a camper's stove. It will help conserve the firewood supply.

If you must smoke when travelling in the wilderness, remain stationary until the cigarette and ashes are thoroughly out.

Because tens of thousands of campers now use Quetico the days are gone when it was permissible to cut live trees for tent poles, construct lean-to shelters and build bough beds. Use modern pole-equipped tents and foam or inflatable mattresses.



Heavy use of Quetico also means that trying to "live off the land" as the Indians and pioneers did, is no longer allowed. If everybody gathered edible wild plants, certain species would quickly be wiped out of existence.

Leaving garbage for park rangers to clean up spoils the environment and creates added expenses, which in turn may cause your camping fee to rise.

The best way to solve the garbage problem is to bring no disposable containers into the park in the first place. Bring only re-usable containers, such as dilly bags. Freeze-dry foods packed in light foil or plastic envelopes are an excellent choice. Please take out all non-biodegradable materials in the yellow garbage bag provided.

In summer fish spoils in a few hours. Take only enough for one meal. After cleaning the fish, take the entrails out into deep water, well away from the campsite, and allow them to sink and return to the environment.

Be considerate of animals encountered around the campsite. Besides adding a great deal to one's enjoyment of the wilderness they perform the useful function of cleaning up waste food.

Archaeological and historical sites provide invaluable clues to Quetico's past history. By damaging these or by taking home arrowheads and pottery you hamper the work of the park archaeologist. Removal of artifacts from the park is against the law.

As Mother Nature can be fickle, one moment smiling and the next ready to "do you in", it is best not to tempt fate by taking undue chances. It is better to be windbound for a day or two than never to get home at all. Heed ominous weather warnings such as approaching thunderheads. This is especially true in spring and fall when cold water temperatures often prevent victims of a capsized canoe from swimming even ninety metres to shore.

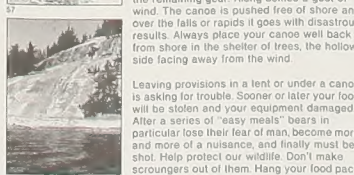
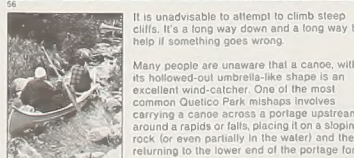
Shooting unfamiliar rapids without carefully examining them first is excellent insurance against living to a ripe old age.



37 French Lake  
38 Dawson Trail Campsite  
39 Young Campers  
40 Ojibwa Campsite Beach  
41 Park Facilities, Dawson Trail Campgrounds



56 Evening Storm  
57 On Channel from Shade  
Lake  
58 Rock Slope



P Parking  
P Picnic Area  
P Picnic Shelter

**Camping**  
There are two camping areas at Dawson Trail Campgrounds: Chippewa and Ojibwa. Those who wish to use them will require a Campsite and Vehicle permit (available at the Gatehouse). This permit allows camping in a designated campsite; anyone in your party who has arrived in a second car must obtain an Additional Vehicle Permit and park his car in the parking lot.

The entrance to the Chippewa Campsites is 1.6 kilometres from the gatehouse. Chippewa has thirty-seven campsites suitable for tents, tent-trailers and small house trailers. Drinking water, toilets and a woodpile are located in the campground.

The Ojibwa Campsites are 3.6 kilometres from the Gatehouse. Ojibwa has ninety-six campsites, including thirty pull-through sites, designated to a "T" for house trailers. Drinking water, toilets and a woodpile are located in the Ojibwa.

A Trailer Dumping Station can be found near the Chippewa and a Trailer Filling Station located to the north of the Dumping Station.

Neither electrical hook-ups nor showers are available but there is running water in two comfort stations, one in the Day-Use Area, the other across from the Visitor Centre.

There is also a Group Camping Area. Please contact the Campground Superintendent at least 24 hours in advance at the park office or write the District Manager at Atikokan.

Only persons who possess a valid camping permit may remain in the park after the posted closing hours.

**Dayuse**  
For those who wish to spend a day picnicking and swimming, beaches, changehouses, picnic tables and a picnic shelter complete with fireplaces and wood are located in the Day Use Area on French Lake.

The beaches are unsupervised. Please watch your children near the water.



59 Black Bear  
60 Checking Maps with the  
Interpreter  
61 Park Staff at Lac La Croix  
62 Ministry Patrol



63 Pabla Portage Customs  
Station  
64 Park Security Staff  
65 Mushrooms  
66 Female Red-winged  
Blackbird

at least three metres above ground and well away from nearby trees.

Always know exactly where you are. Plot your course daily on your waterproof map. Never go anywhere without a compass. A compass in a packback at the other end of the portage will do you no good if you accidentally wander off the trail.

Some city folk who work at a desk all year try to imitate the voyageurs by dashing across a portage at full tilt or by carrying enormous loads. The result is exhaustion, sprained joints, broken bones, or even heart attacks. When engaged in unaccustomed exercise, rest often.

**Atikokan-Quetico: Canoeing Capital of Canada**  
Atikokan, a modern, well planned community, has complete facilities and services for the tourist and citizen alike. Modern supermarkets and corner food stores, department stores and specialty shops carry a large range of goods. Garages and service stations cater to the traveller's needs. Hotels, motels, and restaurants will welcome you, and there are modern camping areas and pleasant parks.

There are varied recreational facilities — a golf course, a ski area and a curling rink as well as a movie theatre and library. Atikokan has several churches, and should these be required, medical and dental services. At the rustic museum visitors can trace Atikokan's logging and mining history.

The outfitters and resort owners in the area are friendly, knowledgeable, and anxious to help with any aspect of your trip. Whatever you require, they'll be glad to help, and most of them offer special family and group rates. For further information contact the Atikokan Chamber of Commerce, Box 997, Atikokan, Ontario, Canada, P0T 1C0.

#### A Word About Park Rules

There is only one basic rule in Ontario's Provincial Parks System: have respect and consideration for your fellow visitors and the park environment. There is a Provincial Parks Act as well as other legislation in which the laws that apply in provincial parks are set out.

43 Provincial Location  
43 Kakabeka Falls, a nearby  
Provincial Park  
44 Fort William, a nearby  
Historic Park



**Ontario Provincial Parks**  
Quetico is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Among the many functions of the Ministry are the planning, managing and protecting of thousands of square kilometres of park land from Hudson Bay to Lake Erie, from Manitoba to Quebec. Provincial Parks vary considerably in size and use. Each is classified as a Recreation, Natural Environment, Wilderness, Waterway, Historical or Nature Reserve Park, according to its particular qualities and the needs of the public. Quetico is a Wilderness Park.

For more information, write, call, or visit one of the offices listed below.

**Parks and Recreational Areas Branch**  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Whitney Block, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3  
Telephone: (416) 965-3081

**District Manager**  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Atikokan, Ontario  
P0T 1C0

63 Pabla Portage Customs  
Station  
64 Park Security Staff  
65 Mushrooms  
66 Female Red-winged  
Blackbird



Persons entering Quetico directly from the United States must report to a Canada Customs Officer at either Saganaga, Basswood or Sandpoint Lakes before paddling into the interior. To reach Quetico Provincial Park from the American side, you must paddle through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Superior National Forest, Minnesota. A quota system requires that you reserve a permit for camping Quetico Boundary Waters area well in advance. U.S. Authorities will reserve such a permit until 10:00 a.m. of your day of departure. For further information on the Boundary Waters Canoe Area contact the Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest, Box 338, Duluth, Minnesota, 55801.

**Emergency Telephone Numbers**  
Pay telephones are located at the French Lake and Nym Lake Ranger Stations and Ministry two-way radios are at the other Ranger Stations. All telephone numbers are Area Code 807. Atikokan Hospital and Ambulance: 597-4215 Atikokan Township Police: 597-2777 Ontario Provincial Police: 597-2120 Quetico Park Headquarters: 597-2735 Dawson Trail Campgrounds (French Lake): 929-2571

In emergencies contact the nearest park staff on patrol or at the ranger station where a first aid kit is located.

- List of Quetico Publications**
- 1 Climate of Quetico
  - 2 Geology of Quetico
  - 3 Mushrooms and Fungi of Quetico
  - 4 Lichens of Quetico
  - 5 Mosses of Quetico
  - 6 Coniferous Trees of the Quetico Forest
  - 7 Butterflies and Moths of Quetico
  - 8 Fishes of Quetico
  - 9 Amphibians and Reptiles of Quetico
  - 10 Birds of Quetico, a Checklist
  - 11 Mammals of Quetico
  - 12 Lake Names of Quetico, Some Interesting Bits of History
  - 13 Pictographs of Quetico
  - 14 Autumn Wilderness Canoe Trip
  - 15 The Man Chain Lakes Canoe Trip
  - 16 Hiking in Quetico Provincial Park
  - 17 Quetico Waterproof map \$2.00